

an attribute information acquiring unit acquiring attribute information of data managed by an equipment connected to a network from the equipment using a common protocol;

a transfer selecting unit selecting a method of data transfer based on the attribute information of data acquired by said attribute information acquiring unit; and

a data receiving unit receiving data by the method of transfer selected by said transfer selecting unit.

19. (New) The data transfer apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said attribute information acquiring unit acquires said attribute information of data as a directory information from said equipment, and

said transfer selecting unit selects the method of data transfer based on the attribute information of data selected by a user among said directory information acquired by said attribute information acquiring unit.

20. (New) A data transfer apparatus, comprising:

an attribute information acquiring unit acquiring attribute information of data managed by an equipment connected to a network from the equipment using a common protocol;

a transfer selecting unit selecting a method of data transfer based on the attribute information of data acquired by said attribute information acquiring unit; and

a data transmitting unit transmitting data by the method of transfer selected by said transfer selecting unit.

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B2  
Cmt*

21. (New) A data transfer apparatus, comprising:

an equipment attribute information acquiring unit acquiring attribute information of an equipment connected to a network from the equipment using a common protocol;

an equipment attribute information selecting unit selecting attribute information of first and second equipments among equipment attribute information acquired by said equipment attribute information acquiring unit;

a data attribute information acquiring unit acquiring attribute information of data managed by the first equipment selected by said equipment attribute information selecting unit from the first equipment using said common protocol;

a transfer selecting unit selecting a method of data transfer based on the attribute information of data acquired by said data attribute information acquiring unit and on attribute information of said second equipment; and

a data transfer instructing unit instructing data transfer from said first equipment to said second equipment by the transfer method selected by said transfer selecting unit.--